

Elmer Willis Burns
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MINUTES
OF THE
TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION
OF THE
CANAAN BAPTIST ASSOCIATION;

Held with the Central Church, Jefferson County, Ala.

October 6th to 9th, 1860.

ELV 241.

OCTOBER 6, 1860.

Pursuant to adjournment, the Canaan Baptist Association of Churches, met this day at this place.

The Introductory Sermon was preached by A. J. Waldrop, from Mathew the 5th chapter and 17th verse.

After a short recess for dinner (the brethren being tented on the ground) the messengers met in the meeting house and were called to order by the former moderator, and after solemn prayer was offered, the letters from the Churches were presented and read, and the names of the messengers were thus recorded:

Bethel—T. Adkins, T. H. Chenault, J. H. Moor.

Cahaba—John Truss, S. T. Vann, J. Carlisle.

Central—J. D. Mann, E. Rich, M. W. Hagood.

Friendship—C. W. Crow, S. B. Crow, John George.

Hebron—A. McDonald, H. Moor, J. R. McDannal, W. H. McDannal.

Mount. Zion—A. W. Brooks, R. Blythe, S. Hand, H. Riggs.

Ruhamah—A. J. Waldrop, Willis Eastis, J. McDonald, W. H. Wood.

Salem—Z. Hagood, J. M. Franklin, R. H. Erwin.

Bigg Creek—David Franklin, J. L. Franklin.

Canaan—J. Grimes, J. P. Massey.

Friendship—No representation.

Good Hope—Daniel Cannon, M. F. Adams.

Mudd Creek—I. Hammond, George Cargil, L. D. Martin.

New Bethel—N. B. Hulsey, T. Robins.

Prudes Creek—R. Stone, John Wright.

Rock Creek—H. G. Smith, A. G. Waldrop, J. H. Williams.

Reops Valley—Not represented.

Sardis—William Hamaker.

Shady Grove—Letter.

Sulphur Springs (Jeff.)—R. Robertson, John Wilks.

Sulphur Springs (Walker.)—J. W. Hyche.

Pleasant Grove.—O. Crane, J. Lawson.

Union—J. M. Ware, R. D. Rocket, B. A. Rocket.

Cedar Grove—J. Oliver, B. E. Moody, J. A. Moor.

Harmony—Shelby E. Isbell, N. Leach.

The Association next, by ballot, proceeded to elect a Moderator and Recording and Corresponding Secretary, which resulted in the election of A. J. Waldrop, Moderator, John Truss Recording, and A. G. Waldrop Corresponding Secretaries.

Read rules of Decorum.

On motion, invited visiting ministers to seats.

An opportunity was then offered to newly constituted Churches to present their letters, when "*Cedar Grove*," (Jeff.) and "*Harmony*," (Shelby,) come forward by letter and messengers, and on examination were found to be sound in the faith of the Gospel and were received and the right hand of fellowship in behalf of this body, by the Moderator, was extended.

Appointed A. W. Brooks, Z. Hagood, A. McDonald, together with the Moderator and Clerk to report on arrangement of business.

On Finance—A. G. Waldrop and W. H. Wood were appointed.

Correspondence received: From the Tuscaloosa Association; I. R. Arnold with letter and minutes L. B. Harbin, from N. River, with minutes. R. Wood and Lawrence Jones from Shelby with minutes. From Ten Island, J. D. Reed, with letter and minutes and brother M. Hendrix, from the Coosa River, no letter or minutes; all of whom were gladly received by a cordial shake of the hand by the Moderator.

Correspondence returned: To Shelby, A. McDonald, James Grimes, J. M. Ware, and A. J. Waldrop.

Coosa River.—H. Moor and W. H. Wood.

Tuscaloosa.—H. G. Smith, I. Hammond and R. Stone.

N. River.—J. D. Mann, H. G. Smith, N. B. Hulsey; A. J. Waldrop.

Ten Island.—H. Moor, J. Oliver, B. E. Moody.

To E. A. Convention Z. Hagood, H. Moor, A. J. Waldrop, H. G. Smith, J. Grimes, J. A. Moor, B. E. Moody, J. McDonald, W. H. McDannal, J. Carlisle.

On motion and second, appointed W. H. Wood, Treasurer of this body.

Ordered that the collection to be taken up on the Sabbath be

one half applied to Indian and the other half to Domestic Mission and that the same be turned over to the Board of E. A.

After prayer, adjourned to half past 8 o'clock Monday morning. The Sabbath was devoted to religious services conducted by Bros. Wood, Smith and Harbin, and at night by Hulsey, and the word preached was attended with good effect. At 3 o'clock p. m. bro. Arnold preached to the colored people at the house.

Monday morning half past 8 o'clock the Association met as purposed; after prayer by the Moderator, proceeded to business.

Committee on arrangements reported; report concurred in; committee discharged.

The committee on documents made their report which was received and adopted. See Appendix (A.)

On Sabbath Schools report concurred in. See Appendix (B.)

On Temperance report read, received and adopted. See Appendix (C.)

On Education, committee reported, which was concurred in and committee discharged. See Appendix (D.)

No report made on Coiportage on account of absense of committee.

Agreed to open correspondence with the "Warrior" Association, by appointing N. B. Hulsey, D. Cannon and Z. Hagood messengers; Hulsey to write.

The committee raised last year to visit Liberty Church report that the Church has been dissolved; committee discharged.

Committee on Finance made their report which was received and adopted. See Appendix (E.)

By the request of the Treasurer, a committee consisting of H. Moor, Z. Hagood and J. George was appointed to examine the accounts and books of the Treasurer.

The next session of this body will be held at the Mudd Creek Church, Jefferson county, commencing Saturday before the first Lord's day in October 1861; H. G. Smith to preach the introductory sermon, Waldrop alternate, A. J. Waldrop to preach the missionary sermon, Smith alternate, and bro. Baker to write a circular letter.

The report on Domestic Missions read and adopted. See Appendix (F.)

The committee whose duty it was to examine the Treasurer's Books report that they have done so and find them correct, committee discharged.

Report on Foreign Missions read and adopted. See Appendix (G.)

The Treasurer made his reports which was adopted. See Appendix (H.)

An Order was made that the Treasurer pay over all monies in his hands according to the objects of the donors of said funds.

The Committee who had the management of the fund known as "*The Superannuated Minister's Fund*" made their report, which was adopted and committee discharged. See App. (I.)

Resolved, That this Association appoint one member in each Church to solicit contributions for the support of a Domestic Missionary, whose duty it shall be to report to a committee of three appointed by this Association, whose duty it shall be to employ a Missionary to ride in the destitute portions of the Associations as long as funds justify; and to constitute the committee of three in the foregoing resolution. The Chair, on suggestion, appointed brothers, L. W. Herring, B. Praytor and T. F. Waldrop. To solicit funds, T. Adkins, S. T. Vann, John Heifner, J. George, J. McDannal, A. W. Brooks, W. H. Wood, J. M. Franklin, D. Franklin, M. F. Adams, G. Cargil, Hulsey, W. Burchfield, J. H. Williams, D. Davis, A. H. P. McLane, Staples, L. F. Waldrop, Hyche, O. Crane, J. M. Ware, N. Leach and B. E. Moody. The brethren last above named are hereby specially urged to make as good collections as they can and report to the Executive Board by the first Monday in March next. The Moderator appointed the following committees to report at the next annual meeting of the Association:

Foreign Missions.—A. C. Thomason, D. Davis, I. Hammond.

Domestic Missions.—H. Moor, A. McDonald, E. B. Moody.

Sabbath Schools.—J. Grimes, — Rogers, J. Massey.

Temperance.—J. H. Baker, J. Byars, W. H. Wood.

Colportage.—N. B. Hulsey, — Hyche, and Robins.

Documents.—M. G. Wood, J. A. Moor and E. B. Waldrop.

Ordered that A. J. Waldrop superintend the publishing of these minutes; that he reserve 100 copies for correspondence, and that he have \$10 for his services.

The second District meeting will commence on Friday before the second Lord's day in August 1861, with the Canaan Church, Elder Grimes will preach the introductory sermon, Rogers alternate. Smith will preach the missionary sermon and Rogers alternate.

Having gone through the business of the Association, the closing hymn was sung, after which we joined bro. McDonald in prayer, committing our souls to the keeping of our Heavenly Father, and so the Association was adjourned to the time and place appointed.

A. J. WALDROP, *Moderator*.

JOHN TRUSS, *Clerk*.

APPENDIX (A.)

COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTS.

We your Committee on Documents submit the following report, having had the same under consideration, recommend the careful and prayerful reading of the Bible as the fortifying means against the effectual approach of error. And then, recommend the careful reading and warm support of other Southern books periodicals, and Literature, agreeing there to having the cause of God and the spread of the Gospel for the true object. Respectfully submitted.

D. CANNON, Chairman.

REPORT ON SABBATH SCHOOLS, (B.)

We your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report, that so far as we can learn, that there has been no Sabbath Schools of note in our bounds, though the report of last year recommending every church in our bounds to establish a Sabbath School, was received and adopted, but what are reports if the recommendations are not complied with. Brethren the reception of that report made it yours individually as well as collectively, now brethren who is chargeable of treating this great hand maid to religion with indifference, let us enquire is it I. We still recommend to the churches that they take more interest in this important institution. All of which is respectfully submitted.

H. MOOR, Chairman.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE, (C.)

We your committee on Temperance, ask permission to submit the following:

We have had the subject under consideration, and think it a very important one. We will divide the subject and report in a limited sense. We assume the position that Temperance is the total abstinence from the use of all Ardent Spirits as a beverage, and that Intemperance is the use of Ardent Spirits as a beverage. Alas, how often do we find many instances of the latter class! How painful it is to see such! We often see intelligent persons given to the use, the excessive use, of Ardent Spirits—persons who profess christianity, profess to be followers of the Meek and Lowly Savior, and members of the Church. If Christ drank spirits as a beverage, or, was given to "much wine," and it can be proven by the Scriptures, we have not another word to say. Some of our good brethren are in the habit of going to the grocery, and calling to their friends, come, let us go to the grocery, and have a dram; and this is the way to make paupers, vagabonds and outlaws, and professed christians, in a great measure, manufacture them. Some go to market to purchase some of the necessities of life, among the rest is a keg or jug of Dexter, or more suitably called quick rich, for it makes them feel rich and think they are worth a thousand dollars, when they are worth only ten—Instead of the contents of the keg being for "necessaries of life" it is consumed to satisfy the insatiable thirst of beast in human form. Such conduct is bad enough in any human beast, much worse for one who professes christianity, and a member of the church. A man who drinks, is good enough and bad enough while in an intoxicated state, to do anything. Therefore the adage, "he has partaken of the root of all evil."

We do hope the day is not far distant, when all, especially members of the church shall look upon Intemperance as detestable, and mentally, morally, physically, and religiously wrong, that it is a soul destroying, God-dishonoring monster that is taking away its thousands annually, from the stage of action. That the ardent spirits used as a beverage is wrong.

"Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils; ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and the table of devils," 1. cor., 10, 21. Let us go back in our imagination to the records of our churches, and we find

that nearly all the excluded members were excluded for intemperance. O, may the day soon come, when the whole civilized world shall become sons and daughters of health and Temperance. We recommend the principle of total abstinence to the churches, and the following resolutions, to be adopted by the Association.

1st. Resolved, That the Association withdraw her fellowship from any church which shall tolerate her members to indulge in the practice of dram drinking, and that we desire the churches in our bounds to exercise rigid discipline in regard to this matter.

2. That, we recommend the members of our churches of the Association not to support any man to any office of honor or trust, who shall canvass the field and treat his fellow citizens with Ardent Spirits. Respectfully submitted.

J. A. MOOR, Chairman.

REPORT ON EDUCATION, (D.)

Bro. Moderator, your committee to whom the subject of Education was referred would not intrude upon the time of the Association with a long report, but neither should we dismiss this without a few suggestions upon so important a subject. Education is so directly connected with the happiness or misery of every member of society, that your committee would ask your attention to a few facts which can be easily seen by a little observation. All denominations of christians for the last ten years have made great efforts to establish denominational Schools throughout the U. S. to afford such advantages to their sons and daughters as they could not obtain otherwise, and to prevent those evils which are and have been springing up so profusely in various places. That Education unsanctified by religion, is worse than Infidelity, is acknowledged by all christians, and sound educators of the present day. An enlarged and highly cultivated intellect, turned out upon society, not under the guidance of Religion, is like turning loose a caged lion upon a defenceless flock. Our common Schools are taught by men of all and of no Religions, and perhaps in no School in the bounds of our Association is even a religious term given to the Studies of Schools. A teacher feels deeply and strongly the obligation of training his scholars religiously, yet if he attempts it, it is highly probable he would not be permitted to carry it out successfully, so many creeds and professions to consult and humor. A denominational school would at once notify the public and it would be expected, that some portion of the students would be devoted to Religious duties, and instructions a bias and turn of thought would be then happily given to the young, trained in those schools, and prevent that fatal blight, which so often fall upon the young in the school days, "Infidelity," it would create a greater interest in parents and guardians in those schools, no infidel professor would fill their chairs, to poison slyly the young mind. Were it not for the great exertions which are now being made by the different denominations to educate under Religious influence, it is firmly the opinion of your committee in a few years all the learned professions would be filled by Infidels of the worst morals, and our children would have to receive instructions at their hands or not at all. Look ahead and see what are your prospects, not much training from the pulpit, none from the sabbath school worth notice, and the family altar neglected, and no religious instruction given but from few families. No schools where a Bible is read, or a prayer offered. But infidels works, novels porenous trash carried all over the land week day and Sabbath, and the mind aroused to seek knowledge, and it is the result. Our article in the constitution that warrants us to assist and encourage young for the mistry is a dead letter, if any are in our bounds they are never sought out or enquired for, no money has ever been expended on their education from your Association, no

place is prepared at which they may be educated, but at remote points and those where wealth and fashion exclude young men from our poor economical county, while numbers of our young men go off every year, graduate, and come back many of them to sow infidelity broadcast over the land. We spend our thousands to construct ways of transportation for our produce, we pamper our appetites, and ornament our bodies, and starve out our mind and bring a blight and mildew upon our Religious prosperity. This is a sad picture but it is true, and instead each year, our Association putting forth greater exertions to cultivate the mind and soul, it we believe becomes more careless more avaricious, caring only for the present, not looking to the future. Where we ask, in a few years will be your preachers. You may perhaps have them, if the Lord make windows in Heaven and let them down. But should you not rather make use of the means in your hands, and be faithful stewards in God's house. That a school might be built up and sustained in your midst your committee have no doubts, if the proper christian liberality were exhibited, and the proper steps taken. It does not take such a vast amount of wealth to start and sustain a school, as many may perhaps think requisite. A few thousand dollars well directed, and loaned out would produce in any good neighborhood such a result as would make it self sustaining, and give all the advantages needed by your Association. If you will consult the history of denominational schools, you find they had small beginnings from \$1 to \$3,000 fund, and from 20 to 30 students, and many such now are first class Colleges, and are conferring countless blessings upon the country, and are withstanding the great flood that threatens to engulf us. We recommend no plan, nor urge no measures, but deem it a vast and important subject for christian deliberation. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. H. BAKER, Chairman.

APPENDIX [E.]

We your Committee on Finance beg leave to report:

Received from the Churches for Minutes,	-	-	\$33.50.
For Associational purposes,	-	-	26.75.
Collection on the Sabbath,	-	-	59.50.
Collection on last year's pledges,	-	-	30.50.
For superannuated fund,	-	-	16.80.

To liquidate the indebtedness of the Association as follows:

From James P. Massey, for himself and others, of Canaan Church, a settlement \$5. * From members in attendance here \$130.20. All of which is respectfully submitted.

A. G. WALDROP, *Chairman.*

* The Clerk has not got the names of the donors, else they would appear.

REPORT ON DOMESTIC MISSIONS [F.]

We your Committee on Domestic Missions beg leave to report: That we have had the same under prayerful consideration, and according to the best information we can get, there is great destitution in our midst, which calls for renewed efforts on our part. We have learned that there is a large scope of country some forty miles square, that there is but one efficient Baptist minister preaching in that field. There are many fathers and mothers and children who are in want of God's word and His salvation. Brethren, let us not sleep, as do others, but watch every opportunity to do good, and spread the knowledge of God all over the land till our own people shall be taught to acknowledge Jesus Christ as their saviour. Others are making efforts, and brethren, if we will be faithful God's Truth will prevail. Error will give way; It is already giving way; now is the time for us to work. The saviour

said work while it is day, for night cometh when no man can work. We know our duty, brethren, let us do it and the Lord will bless us. We recommend that a Missionary be appointed to labor in the destitution found in this report during the next Associational year. All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES GRIMES, *Chairman.*

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS, (G.)

Bro. Moderator, Your committee to whom was referred the subject of Foreign Missions, beg leave to report, that our constitution, by one of its articles recognizes the duty of christian Churches, in obedience to the Gospel to give of our means, and otherwise promote Foreign Missions. We your committee acknowledge its binding obligations upon us as an Association and would gladly see its letter and spirit carried out; but when we turn over the old file of our Minutes, and look for the evidences there, we find little else than a short resolution recommending the Association to take an interest in them, and are greatly deficient in funds contributed, if the whole statistical tables of our Association for twenty-six years, embracing contributions to Foreign Missions, it would not, perhaps, amount to one cent to the number in this body. such a state of feeling in the Churches is truly to be regretted, especially since so large and inviting fields are open to the Gospel.—All Europe at this time, hitherto a large part effectually closed to Missionaries, is now open, China with her millions are waiting for the word of life. Africa never presented a more suitable season than the past year. But what have we done? or what are we, as a body, going to do? Years past in the history of our churches, but little was done for either home or foreign. Our Association was a necessity, a result from the old anti-Missionary Mountzion Association. But since the days of Holcombe, what more have we done than they? Our Constitution in this particular is almost a dead letter. The great fountain of christian liberality seems dried up, no prayer meetings are held now for the mission cause, no individual pleadings for the benighted heathen, all is barren and unfaithful, and a deep apathy seems to be creeping over churches and individuals, and the Association partakes of the same spirit.—No wonder God has smitten our fruitful land, with the "blight and mildew," no wonder God withholds the rain in its season, no wonder our beautiful southern sky is over cast with gloomy and portentous political storms. We neither honor God with our substance, nor do we give him the devotion due him from our lips. Our own ministry is fast fading away, and without a miracle ten years will find us with a few preachers only, our churches weakly, and small. The reformation must commence in individual hearts, more love to God and man. Your committee would recommend to your body to adopt such measures at this meeting as would induce your churches and members to take more interest in this great work. A few missionaries with Bibles and Testaments in hand can do a mighty work in a few years. All lands ought to be supplied with the gospel. God's command is to go ye into all the world. All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. H. BAKER, *Chairman.*

APPENDIX (H.)

W. H. WOOD, Treasurer of the Canaan Association,		Dr.
To cash on hand at the close of last Association,	- - -	\$92,85.
Received from various sources to pay indebtedness of Ass'n.	- - -	135.25.
Collection of Sabbath, present session,	- - -	59,50.
Received on last year's pledges,	- - -	30,50.
" From Churches for printing minutes,	- - -	33,50.
" Associational purposes,	- - -	26,75.
" Superannuated fund,	- - -	16,80.

\$395,55.

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By cash paid H. G. Smith, (for services in 1859,)	- - -	\$103,00.
" " " H Moor,	- - -	32,20.
" " " A. McDonald of superannuated fund,	- - -	20,00.
" " " O. Franklin,	- - -	20,00.
" " " J. Byars,	- - -	20,00.
" " " T. Franklin.	- - -	20,00.
" " " H. G. Smith, for correspondence,	- - -	6,00.
" " " J. A. Moor,	- - -	6,00.
" " " W. H. Wood,	- - -	4,00.
" " paid Clerk for printing Minutes and services,	- - -	33,50.
" " E. A. Convention, July 1860,	- - -	23,45.
Counterfeit bills,	- - -	7,00.

\$295,60.

Remaining in Treasury, - - - \$99,95.
 All of which is respectfully submitted. W. H. WOOD, Treasurer.

REPORT ON SUPERANNUATED FUND, (I.)

We your committee on the fund for the support of our superannuated preachers beg leave to report that from the best light, before us your present plan will fail to answer the purpose for which it was designed, we find first that the interest on the present sum is entirely inadequate for the support of the present number of aged and infirm ministers amongst us, while a great many seem to think that provision is made for them, thereby excusing themselves from any obligation to do but little or nothing. Again we think there is much uncertainty in the present plan in consequence of death, removal, or insolvency, further we find it hard to convince the membership that it is their duty to provide for the next generation, while our present obligation is neglected, supposing your present plan to raise the desired means contemplated, your committee find it would be a very delicate matter to distribute the same in such a manner as to keep down disagreeable feelings. We would therefore recommend that an appeal be made to the churches to think of the weighty responsibilities resting upon them to see that those who have worn themselves out in laboring for the churches should be comfortably provided for. The present means in our hands we have distributed as follows to J. Byars \$20 to O. Franklin \$20, to A. McDonald \$20 to T. Franklin \$20. All of which is respectfully submitted.

APPENDIX (I)

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